

DIVISION I

106 pounds

1. Pacey Najdusak, Mason, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Pito Castro, Brecksville, sophomore (Mentor)
3. Wyatt Richter, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Christopher Earnest, Wadsworth, freshman (Mentor)
5. Colin Noel, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
6. Vince D'Alessandro, Mayfield, freshman (Mentor)
7. Jack Schmidt, Walsh Jesuit, senior (Mentor)
8. Austin McBurney, Massillon Perry, freshman (Mentor)
9. Micah Medina, Oregon Clay, freshman (Perrysburg)
10. David Javier, Westerville Central, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Corey Crawford, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Ryan Avalos, Perrysburg, freshman (Perrysburg)
13. Brandon Mitchell, Oak Hills, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jeffrey Kennedy, North Olmsted, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Kevin Grunzweig, Solon, sophomore (Mentor)
16. Ty Daugherty, Avon, sophomore (Perrysburg)

HD – Javier, Crawford, Gunner Havens (Teays Valley, freshman), Jack Viola (Dublin Jerome, senior); Andrew Parker (Big Walnut, sophomore)

KF – Najdusak, Mitchell, Drew Magness (Elder, sophomore), Simon Taylor (Centerville, sophomore); Noah Moreland (Vandalia Butler, freshman)

MEN – Castro, Earnest, D'Alessandro, Schmidt; McBurney, Grunzweig

PBG – Richter, Noel, Medina, Avalos; Kennedy, Daugherty

The last ten years of championship finals contestants in the opening weight of the big-school division includes eight freshmen, eight sophomores, one junior, and three seniors; with the state champions consisting of four freshmen, five sophomores, and one senior. In only two of the last ten years has there not been a freshman state finalist at the weight class: 2013 had Jose Rodriguez (Massillon Perry) knocking off Austin Assad (Brecksville), while 2015 had Caleb Yates (Anthony Wayne) upend Brakan Mead (Olentangy Liberty); both those were collisions of sophomores. The lone senior state champion was Zack Shupp in 2018, while Tommy Genetin in 2014 and Jack Young in 2010 were runners-up.

With that background in place, the projected state champion is the senior Najdusak, who has qualified for state three times in this weight class placing seventh as a sophomore. He missed placement at the Ironman by one match, but had wins over Earnest and Castro in that tournament, while he was runner-up at SWOWCA and fifth at Powerade later in December. Since the turn of the calendar year, he was second up at 113 at Mason before failing to make 106 at Wadsworth.

Life at the Kettering Fairmont district for Najdusak should be relatively easy, as there is just one other ranked wrestler in the field. The sophomore Mitchell was champion at Trenton Edgewood and Middletown, while placing fifth at SWOWCA and GMVWA.

The two northern district features virtually all the contenders in this weight class outside of Najdusak. Six ranked wrestlers each exit Mentor and Perrysburg. The sophomore Castro and the freshman Earnest lead the way at Mentor, and they have split matches this season; Castro winning 9-2 at the Suburban

League, while Earnest got the upset pin in the dual meet. Castro missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was sixth at the Beast, upset the nationally ranked Horwath from Michigan to win Brecksville, and was runner-up in the Suburban League; while Earnest went 2-2 at both Ironman and Powerade before taking third at North Canton and second at Wadsworth. In other dual meet matches, Castro beat McBurney, while Earnest lost to projected Division III champ Hermes.

Fellow freshman D'Alessandro is ranked third among those at Mentor, and has a title at Hudson to go with a runner-up finish at Maumee Bay and third at the Hephner. Next is another freshman in McBurney, who went a combined 4-6 at Ironman, Beast, and Brecksville before taking third at Top Gun and winning at Delaware Hayes. The senior Schmidt was runner-up at Solon and West Holmes, while taking fourth at North Canton and third at the CIT. Rounding out the group at Mentor is the sophomore Grunzweig who was third at North Coast and fourth at Medina before missing placement by one match at Maumee Bay.

Leading the way at Perrysburg is Richter, who was closed out of the lineup as a freshman by Seefeldt, last year's state runner-up in this weight class. At the Ironman he missed placing by one match, while he went 2-2 at the Doc Buchanan, and picked up a pair of quality wins against opponents from Michigan (state 2nd Williams of Davison and state 3rd Walker of DCC). The junior Noel has been closed out by Fenton and Allison the last two years, and this year went 5-4 between Ironman and the Beast before missing Brecksville and Maumee Bay; he did beat Medina 3-2 in the regional dual final.

The freshman Medina is third of five ranked wrestlers at this district. He missed placing at Solon and Maumee Bay by one match, but was fifth at Brecksville and champion at Dublin Scioto. Fellow freshman Avalos went 2-2 at Brecksville before finishing second at Perrysburg and sixth at Maumee Bay; he beat Medina 9-4 at the regional duals. State alternate last year as a sophomore Kennedy has finished third at Lorain and Perry, along with a title at Kenston this season. The sophomore Daugherty was champion at Avon Lake and third at the Bill Dies.

At Hilliard Darby, there are two ranked wrestlers, returning state qualifier Crawford and the sophomore Javier, who moved in from North Carolina. Outside of a poor tournament at Dublin Scioto, Javier has been excellent winning three tournament titles and beating returning state qualifier Crawford in a dual meet. Crawford finished fourth at district last year as a junior, but had to scratch from state due to a skin condition. His season includes missing placement by one match at North Canton and Brecksville then finishing second at Delaware Hayes.

113 pounds

1. Jacob Moon, Oregon Clay, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Sean Seefeldt, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Peyton Fenton, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Mason Brugh, Wadsworth, sophomore (Mentor)
5. Kaden Jett, Brecksville, freshman (Mentor)
6. Damion Ryan, Centerville, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
7. William Doepker, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Dylan Le, Dublin Scioto, junior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Johnny Novak, St. Ignatius, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Cael Saxton, Avon, junior (Perrysburg)
11. Nick Molchak, Solon, sophomore (Mentor)
12. Dominic Gerome, Mayfield, junior (Mentor)

13. Thomas Cassetty, Uniontown Lake, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Drew Dulcie, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
15. Daniel Beam, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)
16. Trent Jude, Westland, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Le, Beam, Jude, Colton Spurgeon (Mount Vernon, sophomore); Gabe Ohle (Westerville North, junior)

KF – Ryan, Doepker, Jacob Castillo (Middletown, freshman), Bryson Clinger (Beavercreek, sophomore); TBD

MEN – Brugh, Jett, Molchak, Gerome; Cassetty, Dulcie

PBG – Moon, Seefeldt, Fenton, Novak; Saxton

Ten years ago at the state tournament, fans saw what I would consider the best team race in the modern history of the Division I state tournament. Wadsworth and St. Edward battled through the district and state tournaments with the state title decided in the penultimate weight class when Nick Tavenello earned a 6-4 victory over Kyle Rose of Centerville at 215 to give the Grizzlies the state title. It ended the 13-year streak of state titles for St. Edward.

Further, in the 13 previous tournaments, the closest margins were 21-1/2 points in 2009 and 23-1/2 points in 1999. In eight of the other tournaments, the Eagles had amassed winning margins of more than 75 points. Not only was the thought of someone upending St. Edward foreign, so was the general presence of competition.

This season projects to be a two-team battle for the title between St. Edward and Elyria. While there is no guarantee of the title being undecided deep into Sunday evening, it should not be a coronation either. The course of activity in this weight class is one of few weight classes where the Eagles and Pioneers have similar ranked wrestlers.

Last year's 106 pound state final saw Fenton avenge regular season, sectional, and district losses to beat Seefeldt 3-2. Those two wrestlers and the junior Moon, who was third at state in this weight class last year, will do battle for both district and state tournament titles.

Moon placed fourth at the Ironman, losing twice to national top ten Sotelo of Illinois; was a quarterfinalist at Brecksville before pulling out; and was runner-up to Mattin at Maumee Bay in this weight class. He also has two tournament titles up at 120, while earning an overtime victory over Allison in the regional dual final up at that weight class. The junior Seefeldt is a two-time 16U Nationals freestyle All-American, and placed at two of the nation's three best in-season tournaments this season (7th Ironman, 8th Doc Buchanan); he also was upended 5-4 by Gessler in a dual meet. The sophomore Fenton is the returning state champion, though his performances at the Ironman and Beast were less than expectation; he then missed Brecksville, and returned to finish third at Maumee Bay.

Two other returning state medalists are also in the field at Perrysburg, so they face a crucial choice. Stay here, where they will battle each other and/or the bracket for the fourth state spot, or go up to 120 where the path to the fourth spot might be easier. The ceiling at this weight is probably mid-to-low podium, while a low podium at 120 is absolute best case. Novak beat Saxton last year in the seventh-place bout at 106 pounds. This season, the senior Novak was third at Solon and second at the CIT, while falling short of placement at Brecksville by one match; the junior Saxton joined Novak in going 1-2 at the Ironman, while placing seventh at the Bill Dies.

The pair of wrestlers ranked behind the Perrysburg three exit district competition at Mentor. Brugh placed fourth at state as a freshman last year at 106 pounds, and this season won his first match at Ironman before pulling out due to an injury that caused him to miss North Canton and Powerade. Since returning, he was a finalist at the Suburban League and finished third at Wadsworth losing 8-6 to Gessler in the semi. The freshman Jett missed placing at the Beast by one match, was runner-up at Brecksville and the Bill Dies, won the Suburban League when Brugh did not contest the final, and lost 3-0 to Brugh in their dual meet.

Another four ranked wrestlers are at Mentor in the hunt for two state spots. The sophomore Molchak was fourth at Solon and Medina, champion at the North Coast Classic, and missed placing at Medina by one match; the junior Jerome was third at Hudson, eighth at Maumee Bay, and second at the Hephner; Cassetty qualified for state as a freshman, and this season missed placing at Maumee Bay by one match before taking fourth at the Hephner; while fellow sophomore Dulcie was 4-6 between Ironman, Beast, and Brecksville before taking sixth at Top Gun and fourth at Delaware Hayes.

The remaining 2019 state medalist in this weight class is the junior Le, who is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Le was fourth at North Canton, sixth at Brecksville, and runner-up at both Dublin Scioto and Delaware Hayes. The senior Beam is a returning state qualifier in this weight class, while the sophomore Trent Jude missed state qualification in this weight class by one match last year.

Finally, it's the district at Kettering Fairmont, which features just a pair of ranked wrestlers, so there could be some shifting into this weight class from a congested group at 120. The sophomore Ryan, who went two-and-out at 120 in the state tournament last year, lead this contingent. His season includes placing second at SWOWCA and then third at Brecksville and Perrysburg. 2018 state placer Doepker was champion at SWOWCA in this weight class beating Ryan 3-2 in the final before placing sixth at Brecksville up at 120; I hope he doesn't have another season wrecked by injury, which was his undoing last year.

120 pounds

1. Dustin Norris, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Richard Delsanter, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Bryce Allison, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Dominic Ditullio, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Pino Dipierro, Berea-Midpark, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Mikey Lewarchick, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
7. Kollin Howard, Maple Hts., senior (Mentor)
8. Connor Kleinberg, Springboro, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Lucas Acuna, Centerville, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Aidan Agin, Lancaster, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Kyah Patrick, Beavercreek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Andrew Newkirk, Fairfield, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
13. Davante Cooper, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Chris Rocha, Painesville Riverside, junior (Mentor)
15. Ben Sponseller, Uniontown Lake, junior (Mentor)
16. Tony Pendergraft, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)

HD – Agin, Cooper, James Gooding (Westerville North, junior), Wyatt Moore (Hilliard Davidson, freshman); Colin Swincicki (New Albany, junior)

KF – Norris, Ditullio, Kleinberg, Acuna; Patrick, Newkirk

MEN – Lewarchick, Howard, Rocha, Sponseller; Ethan Wannett (Ashtabula Lakeside, junior)

PBG – Delsanter, Allison, Dipierro, Pendergraft; Bradley Humble (North Royalton, senior)

After things went very smoothly for LaSalle as they were hard-luck runners-up at both the dual team and individual bracket state tournaments last season, this season has been anything but. Two-time state finalist Norris, who won state last year as a sophomore, has fit that narrative well. He placed fourth at the Ironman before missing the Dvorak and Detroit Catholic Central Invitational; then his return to tournament competition at Escape the Rock was uneven to say the least. However, Norris has a track record in the state of Ohio and in national competition that makes him the clear favorite.

Five additional ranked wrestlers sit behind Norris at Kettering Fairmont in the hunt for the remaining three state spots. It's unfortunate that two of these wrestlers will get displaced prior to getting the chance to contest for a state medal. Ditullio placed fourth at state last year as a sophomore, and has competed both at this weight and 126; up at 126 he was second at SWOWCA and third at Mason, while in this weight he was 1-2 at the Powerade including a loss to Lewarchik that he avenged on the way to a championship at Wadsworth. The freshman Kleinberg was a junior high state champ last year, and has been both at 126 and this weight class; at 126 he was runner-up at GMVWA and Wadsworth, while finishing fifth at Maumee Bay in this weight.

Acuna has competed at both 120 and 126 after placing seventh at 113 last year as a freshman. His current season includes placing fourth at SWOWCA and third at Perrysburg up one weight class, while he was eighth at Brecksville in this weight. Two-time state alternate Patrick seeks a first state bid as a senior, and he's also competed at both 120 and 126; up one weight class he missed placement at Medina by one match, while in this weight class he beat Ryan 4-1 in the regional dual semifinal. Finally, fellow senior Newkirk was also a state alternate last year with this season including titles at SWOWCA and Fairfield sandwiched around a runner-up finish at Kenston.

Three of the other primary challengers, each of whom has a state medal in their career, exit the Perrysburg district. Two-time state medalist Delsanter has verbally committed to Penn in the Class of 2021; his state tournament career includes front side losses to Norris (3-1 in the 2018 opening round) and Agin (5-3 in the 2019 quarterfinal). Most notable this season for him is falling one match of placing at the Doc Buchanan. Returning state medalist Allison was runner-up at Maumee Bay, with a 5-2 semifinal upset win over Rowan as a signature result; while two-time state qualifier Dipierro placed at state two years ago as a freshman, and this season includes titles at Milan Edison and the North Coast Classic before taking fifth at Brecksville. Also ranked here is returning state qualifier Pendergraft, who was third at Northwood and Dublin Scioto before missing placement by one match at Maumee Bay.

Another quartet of ranked wrestlers, three of whom possess state tournament experience, compete at the Mentor district. That group is led by the junior Lewarchick, who qualified for state in 2018. He was 2-2 at both the Ironman and Powerade, while also finishing runner-up at North Canton and third at Wadsworth. The senior Howard has won opening round matches at state the last two years but is 0-4 on Friday morning, and this season features a tournament title at Hudson. Rocha was a state alternate last year, but qualified for state as a freshman in 2018; this season he has two tournament titles to go with a third at Kenston and fifth at Top Gun. fellow junior Wannett placed at district last year, and this season

placed second at the CVC in this weight class, while up at 126 he was third at Kenston and fourth at Solon.

Rounding out the proceedings is a pair of ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, state placer Agin and state qualifier Cooper. The sophomore Agin was 2-2 at the Ironman, missed placing at Brecksville by one match (3-2 loss to Acuna in consolation), and was champion at New Lexington; while the senior Cooper was 1-2 at both Ironman and Brecksville, sixth at North Canton, and then up at 126 finished fourth at Delaware Hayes.

126 pounds

1. Dylan Shawver, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Logan Agin, Lancaster, senior (Hilliard Darby)
3. Antoine Allen, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. Joseph Blaze, Perrysburg, freshman (Perrysburg)
5. Landen Hacker, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
6. Dy'Vaire VanDyke, Walsh Jesuit, freshman (Mentor)
7. Cole Skinner, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Shane Heil, Berea-Midpark, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Matt Verdes, Vandalia Butler, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Zander Graham, Teays Valley, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Colin Roberts, Austintown Fitch, junior (Mentor)
12. Jerome Scott, John Adams, senior (Perrysburg)
13. Jack Collins, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Ricardo Oviedo, Toledo Waite, senior (Perrysburg)
15. Nick Sabin, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
16. Kaden Kraylik, St. Edward, freshman (Perrysburg)

HD – Agin, Graham, Malik Branson (Pickerington Central, senior), Luke Goeschl (Reynoldsburg, senior); Bryson Palmer (Westland, junior)

KF – Allen, Skinner, Verdes, Collins; Nolan Moore (Moeller, junior)

MEN – Hacker, VanDyke, Roberts, Sabin; Justin Bencie (Maple Hts, senior)

PBG – Shawver, Blaze, Heil, Scott; Oviedo, Kralik

Two of the better overall Class of 2020 yet to win a state title anchor this weight class. Each wrestler has placed second, third, and fourth at state during their respective careers. Each has notable national credentials on the resume, while each has also spent a chunk of time in the national rankings over their stint in high school. The enduring question here is how to determine who is better, is it the individual with the stronger overall body of work, or is it the one that has the head-on victories over the other.

If you're one that believes in overall resume, then Rutgers signee Shawver is your choice. The 2018 state runner-up is a two-time Cadet National freestyle All-American, four-time Beast of the East placer, four-time top three finisher at Brecksville, three-time Maumee Bay champ, and two-time Walsh Ironman placer. There are numerous in-season wins over nationally ranked wrestlers. However haunting him will be a 10-9 state semifinal loss last year to Logan Heil when he blew a two takedown first period lead.

If head-to-head is your cup of tea, look to Duke signee Agin. The returning state runner-up beat Shawver in this year's Brecksville final and also beat him at freestyle state last spring. Agin's resume includes two placements at the Super 32 Challenge and a third place at the Walsh Ironman as a sophomore. However,

he has failed to place at the Ironman the last two seasons, including this year where both of his losses were to freshmen (though the loss to Blaze was avenged in the Brecksville semifinal).

In a nutshell, should Agin and Shawver both make it to the state final, Agin will enter that match favored. However, with some congestion in the field, Shawver enters as the pre-tournament favorite.

Four additional returning state medalists are present in this field, including a pair at the Kettering Fairmont district. Skinner placed third at 106 last year as a sophomore, and has jumped three weight classes this season. After going 1-2 at the Ironman, he was fifth at the Dvorak, second at the DCC Invitational, and third at the Escape the Rock. However, the top dog at Kettering Fairmont is two-time state placer Allen, who was at LaSalle the previous three seasons but left before the start of the season. He placed at the Super 32 Challenge in the preseason, and was champion at 132 at both Fairfield and Mason before dropping down to this weight.

Two other ranked wrestlers exit Kettering Fairmont. The senior Verdes was state alternate last year at 138 pounds, while this season has seen him at both this weight and 132. Up at 132, he was champion at Upper Arlington and second at SWOWCA, while in this weight he placed at the GMVWA and was fourth at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Collins went two-and-out at state in this weight class last year, and this season was third at SWOWCA, seventh at Brecksville, and runner-up at the CIT.

Shawver anchors a district at Perrysburg with five other ranked wrestlers, with the challenge group led by the freshman Blaze, who missed placing at the Ironman by one match before taking third at Brecksville (2-1 loss in the semi to Agin), winning Perrysburg, and finishing runner-up at Maumee Bay (7-6 loss to Shawver). Heil placed seventh last year as a sophomore at 120, and this season was champion at Milan Edison and the North Coast Classic before placing fifth at Brecksville and seventh at Maumee Bay. Returning state qualifier Scott was sixth at North Canton and has three tournament titles, 2017 state qualifier Oviedo was champion at Northwood and missed placement at Maumee Bay by one match, while the freshman Kraylik was champion up two weight classes at Marion Harding on the "Green team" before making his foray into this weight for the primary varsity.

Agin is joined by just one other ranked wrestler at Hilliard Darby, that being the sophomore Graham, who went two-and-out last year at state at 113. This season he was second at Olentangy Liberty and fourth at Medina. Also here is 2018 state qualifier Branson.

Rounding out the field is four ranked wrestlers at Mentor, led by two-time state placer Hacker. He missed placement at the Ironman by one match, was fifth at North Canton and seventh at Powerade, before taking gold at both the Suburban League (5-4 over Butler in the final) and Wadsworth. Next in line is the freshman phenom VanDyke, a Junior High state champion last year. His season includes going 2-2 at the Ironman (including a 2-0 loss to Butler); finishing runner-up at North Canton; along with titles at Solon, CIT, and West Holmes. Next in line is two-time state qualifier Roberts, who has titles in four tournaments, including Top Gun, and a fifth place finish at Medina; while 2018 state medalist Sabin closes out the ranked group with a title at Perry and third at West Holmes in this weight, along with a third place finish up at 132 in the North Coast Classic.

132 pounds

1. Jimmy Carmany, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
2. Casey Wiles, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Scott Richter, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)

4. Nate Burnett, Elyria, sophomore (Perrysburg)
5. Logan Hoskins, Vandalia Butler, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Jack Haskin, Toledo Whitmer, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Jacob Reed, Lancaster, junior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Ismael Ayoub, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
9. Josue Dawson, Princeton, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Lucas Rodgers, Tecumseh, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Charles Williams, Gahanna Lincoln, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Jake Williams, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
13. Chase Henderson, Walsh Jesuit, junior (Mentor)
14. Jacob Shanklin, Upper Arlington, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Keegan Knapp, Olentangy Orange, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
16. Desmond Diggs, Xenia, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Reed, Ayoub, Williams, Shanklin; Knapp

KF – Wiles, Hoskins, Dawson, Rodgers; Diggs

MEN – Carmany, Williams, Henderson, Justin Bencie (Maple Hts., senior); Tyler Wittereich (Painesville Riverside, junior)

PBG – Richter, Burnett, Haskin, Milo Miloradovic (Brunswick, senior); Mike Daly (Oregon Clay, junior)

Eight of the projected contenders in this weight class ranged in finish last year between fourth place and winning a state match, while six additional wrestlers have state tournament experience in their careers. The congestion and similarity between the primary contenders in this field makes this one where the primary contenders could do anything from win a state to finish seventh on a given weekend, with 1-2 being plausible if things went truly badly.

The being said, the pick in this report is going to be the wrestler with the highest ceiling in terms of their overall results. The senior Carmany has twice placed fourth at 126 pounds in the state tournament. During the 2018-19 season, he beat Shawver on the way to a Brecksville title, though Shawver reversed that loss and then some in the consolation final at state along with beating eventual state champ Logan Heil decisively on two occasions. At the Junior Duals this summer, Carmany picked up two wins over wrestlers that have been ranked nationally; while his current season includes fourth place finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville along with titles at the Beast, Suburban League, and the Bill Dies.

His challenges will not come at the district level, as the field at Mentor features just two other ranked wrestlers in 2018 state qualifier Williams and the junior Hendreson. The senior Williams missed placement at Brecksville by one match, was sixth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Delaware Hayes; while the junior Henderson was fourth at Solon, third at CIT, and first at West Holmes in this weight class along with a third at North Canton up at 138.

The joint highest returning state medalist in this weight is the junior Wiles, who was fourth at state in this weight last year after placing third at 126 as a freshman (beating Carmany in the consolation final 8-6). In the current season, he was third up at 140 in the DCC Invitational before placing fifth at Escape the Rock, which included a 5-2 loss to Buchanan from Virginia (a wrestler Carmany beat in the semifinals of the Beast of the East).

Four ranked wrestlers join Wiles at the Kettering Fairmont district. Three-time state qualifier Hoskins has won a state tournament match each of the last two years, while this year he won titles at Upper

Arlington and SWOWCA at 138 before dropping to this weight to win at GMVWA and place third at Maumee Bay (beat Haskin, lone loss to Freeman when he was pinned while leading). Fellow senior Dawson won a state tournament bout last year at 120, and has four tournament titles on the season, three of them at 126 pounds before Allen inserted into the lineup at that weight; another senior Rodgers was a state alternate last year in this weight class, while his current season includes three tournament titles and third place finish at GMVWA; finally senior Diggs was sixth at district last year in this weight class, while his current season includes three tournament titles along with a third at Fairfield and (up a weight class) eighth at the GMVWA.

Also here is returning Division II state qualifier Tyrone Keeton (West Carrollton, senior) along with 2018 state qualifier in Division III Max Boaz (Lakota East, junior)

Three returning state placers will exit the Perrysburg district. The senior Richter placed fifth in this weight class last year, while this season he was 2-2 at the Ironman including a 1-0 win over Nate Burnett, and was one match from placing at Dob Buchanan though he beat the nationally ranked Vombaur from Colorado on the front side. Next up is Burnett, who placed fifth last year as a freshman at 120 pounds. He was 2-2 at the Ironman before beating four state medalists on the way to a title at Brecksville, most notably beating defending state champ Rhoads 5-2 in the quarter and upending Haskin 1-0 in the final. Haskin placed sixth at state last year as a sophomore, while this season he was champion at Northwood and Perrysburg, finished second at Brecksville with a 3-1 win over Carmany in the quarterfinal, and then was sixth at Maumee Bay.

Finally, it's five ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, though none really fit the title conversation. The group is led by two-time state qualifier Reed who missed placing at Brecksville by one match, while winning a title at Olentangy Liberty and placing second at New Lexington. Ayoub went two-and-out at state last year as a freshman but went on to finish fourth in freestyle at the 16U Nationals over the summer; his sophomore season features 2-2 finishes at the Ironman and Brecksville sandwiched around a fifth place at North Canton, though he's missed most of the second half due to injury but a return looms before the state series.

The junior Shanklin has runner-up in two tournaments to go with a fifth at Medina and championship at Kettering Fairmont. The sophomore Knapp was third at Upper Arlington and Medina, champion at Olentangy Orange, and missed placing at Maumee Bay by one match. Closing things out is two-time state qualifier Sawchuck, who was champion at Watkins Memorial and runner-up at Buckeye Local.

138 pounds

1. Mick Burnett, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Jake Niffenegger, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Mason Kleinberg, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
4. James Bronstrup, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
5. Evan Bennett, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
6. Connor Euton, Westerville North, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
7. Luke Marsh, Lebanon, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Zack Snyder, Anthony Wayne, junior (Perrysburg)
9. Caden Wendling, Berea-Midpark, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Trysten Zahoransky, Solon, senior (Mentor)
11. James Baumann, Dublin Coffman, junior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Jesse Bowers, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)

13. Quentin Whitehill, Medina, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Maclain Morency, Anderson, freshman (Kettering Fairmont)
15. John Perry, Avon Lake, senior (Perrysburg)
16. Samuel Lord, Akron Ellet, senior (Mentor)

HD – Euton, Baumann, Bowers, Lincoln Heard (Marysville, junior); Zack Miller (Olentangy Orange, junior)
KF – Niffenegger, Kleinberg, Marsh, Morency; Matt Motter (Vandalia Butler, junior)
MEN – Bronstrup, Zahoransky, Whitehill, Lord; Tyler Lintner (Austintown Fitch, freshman)
PBG – Burnett, Bennett, Snyder, Wendling; Perry

Wrestling is a very family-oriented sport, something that gets passed on from father to sons and from siblings to one another. The Burnett family is one of those obvious examples here in the Buckeye State. Erik Burnett was a four-time state champion at Oberlin from 1984-1987, while his younger brother Scott was a three-time state champion for Elyria Catholic from 1996-1998.

Erik is now the head coach at Elyria, where the program under his tutelage has finished runner-up three times in the individual tournament and once in the dual meet event prior to this year. In the last five seasons, Pioneers' wrestlers have amassed nine state titles, and the program is well on the way toward the top fifteen then top ten in terms of individuals with state titles.

One of those state titles was won by Erik's son Mick, last year as a junior at 132 pounds after he was sixth at 106 as a freshman and second at 126 as a sophomore (younger brother Nate was fifth at 120 last year as a freshman). Mick, who has signed with Pitt, has been superlative since winning that state title last year: placement finish at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle, Junior National freestyle runner-up, fifth place at the Super 32 Challenge and Walsh Ironman, fourth at the Beast, second at Brecksville, and champion at Maumee Bay.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings exit the Kettering Fairmont district, Niffenegger and Kleinberg. Niffenegger finished as runner-up in this weight class last year as a freshman; while this season includes missing Ironman placement by one match, finishing second at the Dvorak, winning a title in the DCC Invitational, and taking third at Escape the Rock (all four losses coming against nationally ranked out-of-state opponents). Two-time state qualifier Kleinberg placed third at GMVWA and Maumee Bay before winning a title at Watkins Memorial.

An additional pair of ranked wrestlers are at Kettering Fairmont. Marsh won a state tournament match in this weight last year as a freshman, and this season was runner-up at SWOWCA and Medina before winning the title at Western Brown; while the freshman Morency was third at SWOWCA and fifth at GMVWA before winning title at Sycamore and Milford.

Four additional ranked wrestlers will join Burnett at Perrysburg, led by the sophomore Bennett, who was closed out of the St. Edward lineup by two-time state champion Hepner and state medalist Richter last year. His present season includes going 5-4 between the Ironman and Doc Buchanan along with upending two-time Michigan state runner-up Killion 5-3. The junior Snyder placed top five in three tournaments at 145 before taking fifth at Maumee Bay in this weight class, and has a notable dual meet win in overtime over Wendling.

Wendling qualified for state at 126 last year as a junior, and has placed at four tournaments this season including sixth at Brecksville and seventh at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Perry missed placing at Medina

by one match up at 145 before dropping to this weight where he won titles at West Salem Northwestern and West Holmes. This district weight class also features returning state qualifier Jason Cascadden (Toledo Whitmer, senior).

Four ranked wrestlers make up the field at Mentor, led by Bronstrup, who won a state tournament bout last year as a sophomore. He went 7-4 between the Ironman and the Beast, most notably beating Bennett 7-2 in the opening round of Ironman. Since then he was fourth at Brecksville before winning titles at the Suburban League and Bill Dies. Zahoransky was a state alternate last year in a loaded district at this weight class, while his current season includes a finals appearance at Solon and missing placement at Maumee Bay by one match. The sophomore Whitehill was fifth at Medina and second at the Hephner, sandwiched around falling one match short of placing at Maumee Bay. Lastly, it's the senior Lord, who was runner-up at the North Coast Classic, sixth at Perrysburg, and fourth at the Hephner.

Finally, there are three ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby led by Euton, who won a state tournament bout last year as a freshman. This year he has titles at four tournaments, most notably Medina where he beat Marsh. Returning state qualifier Baumann was fifth at North Canton and 2-2 at Brecksville in this weight class before dropping to 132 to cover for the Ayoub injury, where he was champion at Delaware Hayes. The senior Bowers is also a returning state qualifier; his current season includes a title at Fairfield, runner-up finish at Upper Arlington, along with third place finishes at Kettering Fairmont and Medina. Also here is returning state qualifier Heard.

145 pounds

1. Victor Voinovich, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
2. Blake Saito, Perrysburg, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Luke Geog, St. Edward, sophomore (Perrysburg)
4. Austin Mullins, Huber Hts. Wayne, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Darnai Heard, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
6. Lucas Uliano, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
7. Jonah Smith, Findlay, senior (Perrysburg)
8. James Scavuzzo, Medina Highland, sophomore (Mentor)
9. Evan Overholser, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Nick Nastasi, Kenston, senior (Mentor)
11. Daniel Devera, Parma, junior (Perrysburg)
12. Zach Richards, Austintown Fitch, senior (Mentor)
13. Sean O'Horo, Boardman, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Tim Smith, Colerain, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Alex Epstein, Lakota East, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Jake Bryson, Wadsworth, senior (Mentor)

HD – Uliano, Triston Bowens (Mount Vernon, senior), Jackson Sowers (Hilliard Davidson, senior), Niko Gonzalez (Dublin Coffman, sophomore); Jack Golla (Marysville, sophomore)

KF – Mullins, Heard, Overholser, Smith; Epstein

MEN – Voinovich, Scavuzzo, Nastasi, Richards; O'Horo, Bryson

PBG – Saito, Geog, Smith, Devera; Andrew Phillion (Midview, senior)

Before Todd Haverdill got things humming at Brecksville as head coach, the Bees wrestling program was rather ordinary, producing just two state champions in program history (Joe Lang in 1991 and Dominic

Caruso in 1994). Over the previous 13 seasons, the Bees have finished on the state tournament board every year except 2011, while they have been top five in the standings on nine occasions. That includes each of the last seven years.

Starting with Kyle Lang and Jeremy Johnson in 2009, eight Brecksville individuals won weight class titles in a ten-year stretch; the Bees have also had at least one state finalist in ten of the last twelve seasons. The most recent of the state champions was Voinovich in 2018 as a freshman, which was part of their runner-up finish in the individual state tournament. There's a synergistic relationship between program build and talent at the ability level of a Voinovich.

Despite the 4-3 semifinal loss to Munguia last year at state in the 152-pound weight class, the talent level of Voinovich was abundantly clear. It showed crystal clear over the off-season when he was an All-American at the UWW Junior Nationals, went undefeated at the Junior Duals, and was a Junior National freestyle runner-up. During his junior high school season, he was runner-up at Ironman and fifth at the Beast with all three losses coming to ranked out-of-state opposition before winning titles at Brecksville, the Suburban League, and the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers join Voinovich at the Mentor district, realistically seeking the other three state tournament spots. Scavuzzo placed at a loaded district weight class last year as a freshman, while this year he has titles at Solon and West Holmes to go with third place finishes at Olentangy Liberty, Perrysburg, and Top Gun. Nastasi qualified for state three years ago at 106 pounds, but his previous two seasons were marred by injury; while this season he's been relatively healthy on the way to a title at Kenston up at 152 before dropping to this weight to finish third at the Bill Dies and fifth at Wadsworth.

Returning state qualifier Richards was a consolation finalist at Beaver Local, fifth at Medina and Top Gun, second at the Hephner, and third at the EOWL; while neighboring rival O'Horo was runner-up at Beaver Local, fourth at Kenston and the EOWL, sixth at Top Gun, and champion at the Hephner. The senior Bryson had a stretch of performances not commensurate with a state ranked wrestler before the regional duals, where he pulled off wins against Richards and O'Horo, though he was trailing at the time of the pin against Richards.

The two wrestlers projected as most direct challengers to Voinovich will exit the Perrysburg district. Three-time state placer Saito was champion at the Preseason Nationals prior to the regular season, while his in-season includes placing fifth at Ironman and third at Brecksville before winning titles at Perrysburg and Maumee Bay. Cadet World Team trials placer Geog was closed out of the St. Edward lineup by Hepner and Andonian last season, while this season he went 3-2 at the Ironman before taking second at the Doc Buchanan; he also beat Ironman placer Quiocho 5-0 in a dual meet earlier this month.

Another pair of ranked wrestlers join at Perrysburg, returning state medalist Smith and the junior Devera. The senior Smith missed placing at Ironman by one match, was runner-up at Findlay, champion at Defiance, and third at Maumee Bay; he also lost 2-1 to Uliano at Wadsworth before pulling out of the event. Devera has titles in four tournaments this season, including at Kenston, to go with a fourth-place finish at the Bill Dies.

Five ranked wrestlers seek the four state spots at the Kettering Fairmont district, led by 2018 state placer Mullins and returning state placer Heard. The junior Mullins missed last post-season due to injury, and has competed at both this weight and 152 this season. At 152, he was champion at SWOWCA and 2-

2 at Brecksville, while in this weight he was champion at Troy and runner-up at Top Gun. Fellow junior Heard was seventh in this weight class last year.

Another senior is Overholser, who won two district bouts in this weight class last year. He has two tournament titles on the season to go with a 2-2 performance at Brecksville and a runner-up finish at Maumee Bay. The sophomore Smith placed at district down three weight classes last year, while this season he was runner-up at Edgewood and SWOWCA before winning titles at Fairfield and Middletown. The senior Epstein was also a district placer last year, and third was third at SWOWCA and fourth at Perrysburg before winning the title at Miford.

Last and least is the Hilliard Darby district with just one ranked wrestler, two-time state placer Uliano, who was champion at Olentangy Liberty, runner-up at the Bill Dies, and third at Wadsworth. Also here are returning state qualifiers Bowens and Mason McHugh (Upper Arlington, senior).

152 pounds

1. Bryce Hepner, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
2. Derek Fields, Brunswick, junior (Perrysburg)
3. Enrique Munguia, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
4. Micah Norwood, Pickerington North, junior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Daniel Segura, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Alex Garee, Perrysburg, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Daniel Patten, Stow, senior (Mentor)
8. Andrew Knick, Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Seth Lambers, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Shawn Erryl Will, Marysville, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
11. Avery Bair, Centerville, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Noah Ratliff, Reynoldsburg, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. William Scavuzzo, Medina Highland, sophomore (Mentor)
14. Judah Thomas, Middletown, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Jacob Walsh, Wadsworth, sophomore (Mentor)
16. Danny Martich, Painesville Riverside, junior (Mentor)

HD – Norwood, Segura, Will, Ratliff; Miles Pearson (Upper Arlington, senior)

KF – Knick, Lambers, Bair, Thomas; Alex Hobbs (Little Miami, junior)

MEN – Patten, Scavuzzo, Walsh, Martich; Nathan Thompson (Boardman, senior)

PBG – Hepner, Fields, Munguia, Garee; Kameron Miller (Oregon Clay, senior)

Want to know the prestige of the St. Edward wrestling program beyond the obvious? How about this fact? Should Hepner win state this year, he would become the 12th Eagles wrestler to win three or more state titles in their career. If you counted just those 11 or 12 wrestlers as having won one state title each in their career, that total number of state titles would rank right about 40th out of over 400 schools that have seen an individual win a state tournament weight class.

The club of three-time state champions that call St. Edward their alma mater includes Alan Fried, Eddie and Mark Jayne, Mason Lenhard, Matt Koz, Sean Nemec, Jamie Clark, and Dominic Abounader. While four-time state champions are Ryan Lang, Lance and Collin Palmer, along with Dean Heil.

Hepner's senior season includes missing out on placing at the Ironman by one match before sustaining an injury in his first match at the Doc Buchanan. At the Ironman, he beat Munguia 10-7 in the round of 16 before losing by fall late to nationally ranked Peyton Hall in a match he led 1-0 prior to getting reversed and then 1-0 in consolation to nationally ranked Noah Castillo. Upon return from injury, Hepner lost by fall in overtime against nationally ranked Brayden Roberts.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings at this weight class, along with another projected state medalist also exit the district at Perrysburg; each happens to exit a different sectional. Fields qualified for state two years ago at 126 as a freshman, losing 5-4 to Mick Burnett in the opening round, while he was scratched prior to the start of last year's post-season at 138 pounds. In the off-season, he was runner-up at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle. Fields has titles in five tournaments, with key victories in those tournaments over Patten (twice), defending state champion Contos (Medina semi), Lillard, and Munguia. At the Ironman, he beat Castillo on the front-side before losing to nationally ranked Mastrogiovanni and Munguia to not place; that Munguia loss was avenged by major decision earlier this month.

Munguia was runner-up to Sam Dover last year in this weight class, and notably beat Voinovich 4-3 in the state semifinal. He also was one match away from placement at the Super 32 Challenge, though he picked up two wins over wrestlers that have appeared in the 160-pound national rankings at various points this season. Munguia was also fifth at the Walsh Ironman and Beast of the East, but dropped to seventh at Brecksville before winning at Maumee Bay. Fellow junior Garee won an opening round bout last year at state, while this year he was eighth at Brecksville, runner-up at Perrysburg, and third at Maumee Bay.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings both exit the Hilliard Darby district. Norwood was state runner-up in the tiebreakers at 138 last year for Bishop Hartley in Division II, while he was a state quarterfinalist at 126 for Lancaster in Division I in 2018 as a freshman. This season he was runner-up at 170 at Dublin Scioto, as well as champion at Mount Vernon and Watkins Memorial at 160 before dropping to this weight class in a mid-January dual meet. Two-time state placer Segura was a Cadet World Team member over the summer in Greco-Roman. The George Mason signee has titles in three tournaments, along with runner-up finishes at North Canton and Brecksville.

Two additional ranked wrestlers populate the Hilliard Darby district. Will placed at district last year as a freshman, and this season missed placing at Brecksville by one match before taking fourth at the Top Gun, then beating state qualifier Cain up at 160 in the regional duals. The senior Ratliff has two tournament titles to go with runner-up finishes at Xenia and Watkins Memorial, along with a fourth-place finish at GMVWA.

Another two-time state placer in this weight class is Cleveland State signee Patten, who exits the Mentor district. His senior season includes runner-up finishes at Solon and the Bill Dies, third place at the Hepner, a title at the Suburban League (OT win over Lillard in the semis), and going 2-2 at the Walsh Ironman. Three additional ranked wrestlers are in this district, led by the sophomore Scavuzzo who was fifth at Solon and Top Gun, runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and the Suburban League, and seventh at Medina. Next up is fellow sophomore Walsh, who rides the momentum of a victory over Scavuzzo at the regional duals, but went just 1-2 at North Canton; he also was 2-2 at Powerade along with placing sixth at Wadsworth. The junior Martich was champion in two tournaments at 160 before finishing second at Kenston and seventh at Top Gun in this weight class.

Closing the loop is a group of four ranked wrestlers led by three-time state qualifier Knick, who placed sixth last year at 145 pounds in the state tournament. His senior season includes titles in four tournaments, most notably GMVWA, along with a fourth-place finish at the North Coast Classic up at 160 pounds. Returning state qualifier Lambers was champion at CIT and runner-up at Delaware Hayes; fellow senior Bair was at 160 for the first two months of the season where he was champion at Dublin Scioto, fourth at Perrysburg, but missed placement by one match at SWOWCA and Brecksville; while another senior in Thomas has three tournament titles to go with a runner-up finish at SWOWCA.

160 pounds

1. Padraic Gallagher, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Brett McIntosh, Harrison, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Aaron Morton, Westerville South, senior (Hilliard Darby)
4. Logan Messer, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
5. Noah Ewen, Perrysburg, sophomore (Perrysburg)
6. Connor Liber, Sylvania Northview, junior (Perrysburg)
7. Brady Linder, Medina Highland, senior (Mentor)
8. Mitchell Broskie, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
9. Ronald Dimmerling, Glen Oak, sophomore (Mentor)
10. Jayce Fitzpatrick, Olentangy Liberty, junior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Emmet Cain, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
12. Anthony Rizzo, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
13. Ethan Marsh, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
14. Jake Mack, Solon, senior (Mentor)
15. Kurt Thompson, Moeller, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Brandy Crawford, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – Morton, Broskie, Cain, Fitzpatrick; Jeff Cameron (Watkins Memorial, junior)

KF – McIntosh, Marsh, Thompson, Jestin Love (Vandalia Butler, senior); Tanner Cuttone (Springboro, senior)

MEN – Messer, Linder, Dimmerling, Rizzo; Mack

PBG – Gallagher, Ewen, Liber, Crawford; Hunter Kupniewski (North Royalton, senior)

Not even counting his run to a Junior National freestyle title, the Ohio State Class of 2021 commit Gallagher has two of the biggest in-season scholastic wrestling wins in the last twelve-month period. The first came when he beat at-the-time national No. 1 Connor Brady 7-6 in last year's state title at this weight class. The second was last month when he knocked off Cadet World medalist Alex Facundo in a dual meet, the Penn State commit who many viewed as the top overall Class of 2021 wrestler.

In the two major tournament competitions of this regular season, Gallagher was champion at the Walsh Ironman beating top five nationally ranked Cerniglia, while he lost at the Doc Buchanan to the nationally elite Cael Valencia.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings at this weight competed in last year's consolation final at this weight, a match in which McIntosh upended Morton 10-8 in the tiebreaker. If one wants to wonder why they are both still in this weight class, just look at who is in the next weight, it's a "no win" situation.

Three additional ranked wrestlers join Gallagher at Perrysburg, including a pair with state experience. Ewen placed sixth last year as a freshman, while Liber won a state match in consolation as a sophomore;

those two have split championship finals bouts this season, Ewen winning at Perrysburg and Liber at Maumee Bay. Ewen also went 3-2 at the Ironman and placed third at Brecksville, while Liber has titles in three other tournaments. Fellow junior Crawford is the other ranked wrestler after placing fifth at Maumee Bay. It should be noted that Gorman champion Jackson Weissinger (Fremont Ross, senior), a state alternate two years ago as a sophomore, is most likely done for the season.

The Wyoming signee McIntosh missed placement at the Ironman by one match, while he has titles at three additional tournaments on the season including at Mason where he beat Indiana state third Dickens two times. He was upset in the semis at Medina up at 170 by Indiana State qualifier Braden Welch. Just two additional ranked wrestlers join him at Kettering Fairmont: the senior Marsh and returning state alternate Thompson. Marsh was third at SWOWCA, fourth at Medina, and champion at Western Brown; while the sophomore Thompson missed placing at Powerade by one match but was fourth at SWOWCA and champion at the CIT. Also here is 2018 state qualifier Love.

Morton has a pair of tournament titles to go with a 2-2 record at the Walsh Ironman, and is joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, all returning state qualifiers though none won a match last year at the Schott. The sophomore Broskie placed seventh at North Canton before taking fourth at Brecksville and earning the title at Delaware Hayes; the junior Fitzpatrick was fourth at Olentangy Liberty, Bill Dies, and Wadsworth along with taking second at Medina; while the senior Cain was runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and Delaware Hayes, champion at GMVWA, fourth at Top Gun, and has a dual meet loss to Fitzpatrick.

Rounding out the districts is the one at Mentor, which features five ranked wrestlers, led by 2018 state placer Messer who had to injury forfeit out of his go-to-state bout last season. As a junior Messer placed third at Powerade and the Suburban League, where he lost to Fishback in overtime in the semis; he was runner-up at Wadsworth to the nationally ranked Best in the tiebreakers, and won gold at North Canton.

Two-time state qualifier Linder was third at Olentangy liberty, runner-up at the Suburban League and Top Gun, as well as winning gold at Medina and West Holmes. The sophomore Dimmerling was been up in weight until very late January; he was fifth at Solon and champion at Hudson in the 170-weight class, along with taking third at the Bill Dies up at 182. Returning state qualifier Rizzo placed eighth at Brecksville and third at the Suburban League up at 170 before dropping to this weight class to place third at the Bill Dies. Finally, the senior Mack was at 170 for the first couple weeks of the season where he was fourth at North Coast after missing placement at Solon by one match; then in this weight class he was fifth at Medina and fourth Maumee Bay.

170 pounds

1. Nevan Snodgrass, Kettering Fairmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
2. Najee Lockett, Shaker Hts., senior (Perrysburg)
3. Jacob Lagoa, Ashtabula Lakeside, senior (Mentor)
4. Hudson Hightower, St. Edward, junior (Perrysburg)
5. Cole Foor, Watkins Memorial, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Jaden Hardrick, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Corbin May, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Ethan Silvis, Medina, senior (Mentor)
9. Will Coffield, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Chase Stein, Cincinnati LaSalle, sophomore (Kettering Fairmont)
11. David Soghomonyan, Upper Arlington, senior (Hilliard Darby)

12. Aidan Corrigan, Twinsburg, junior (Mentor)
13. Kevin Kiussis, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
14. Jayden Jackson, Lakewood, junior (Perrysburg)
15. Jonathan Norwood, Elyria, freshman (Perrysburg)
16. Tristan Bluntschy, Olentangy Orange, senior (Hilliard Darby)

HD – Foor, May, Soghomonyan, Bluntschy; Kyle Demoss (Hilliard Bradley, senior)

KF – Snodgrass, Hardrick, Coffield, Stein; Vincent Scally (Moeller, senior)

MEN – Lagoa, Silvis, Corrigan, Lukas Stiles (Medina Highland, freshman); Logan Shiarla (Wadsworth, junior)

PBG – Lockett, Hightower, Kiussis, Jackson; Norwood

Carson Kharchla finished last season as the No. 3 overall wrestler in the Class of 2019 nationally, just behind Greg Kerkvliet and Cohnton Schultz. He earned bonus points in five of eight bouts on the way to winning a pair of state titles before now redshirting as a freshman at Ohio State. All three of the primary contenders in this weight class have fallen victim to Kharchla the last couple of years.

A two-time Junior National freestyle All-American (sixth in 2018 and third in 2019), Snodgrass earned a pin and major to open his 2019 state tournament run in this weight class. He then faced Kharchla in the semifinal, losing a 5-1 decision; a pair of 3-1 decision victories earned him a third-place finish after placing fourth as both a freshman and sophomore. Snodgrass placed third at the Ironman early on in his senior season, though a 12-6 semifinal loss to nationally unranked Jaden Bullock came as a shock to all. He then missed a month-plus of action before returning in late January.

The two wrestlers ranked directly behind Snodgrass met in the final at Kenston in late December, where returning state runner-up Lockett upended two-time state champion Lagoa 3-2. The Cornell-bound Lockett is a two-time state placer, losing a 7-1 decision to Kharchla in last year's state final at this weight class. The Edinboro-bound Lagoa won state titles as a freshman and sophomore competing at Ashtabula St. John in Division III before transferring to Ashtabula Lakeside for his junior season; between ineligibility and injury, Lagoa missed the second half of the 2018-19 season. With respect to facing Kharchla, Lagoa lost by fall and technical fall in the 2017 and 2018 Brecksville finals respectively.

Lockett started his senior season up at 182 pounds, where he won a title at Olentangy Liberty. Surprising to me, he dropped to down to 170 the next week winning the title at Berkshire before subsequently winning championships at Kenston and Top Gun. He is joined by four other ranked wrestlers at the Perrysburg district, most notably Hightower who finished fifth last year at state in the 182-pound weight class. The junior missed Ironman due to injury before placing fifth at the Doc Buchanan with a pair of losses to nationally ranked opposition, and then went 1-2 at the DCC Super Duals picking up a 1-0 victory over two-time Michigan third-place finisher Jay Nivison.

Kiussis placed at district two years ago as a sophomore, and this season missed placing at Solon by one bout before winning the North Coast Classic, placing seventh at Medina, and then runner-up finishes at the Bill Dies and Wadsworth. The junior Jackson was fourth at Solon, runner-up to Lockett at Berkshire, and fourth at Kenston; while the freshman Norwood missed placement at Brecksville by one match and finished 2-2 at both the Beast and Maumee Bay.

Lagoa's senior season also includes championships at Solon and the CVC. He is joined by just two other ranked wrestlers at Mentor. Silvis qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season has placed fifth

at Medina, fourth at Maumee Bay, and third at the Hephner; while the junior Corrigan was runner-up at Solon, North Coast, and the Suburban League along with taking third at Kenston.

Snodgrass is joined by returning state qualifier Hardrick, and two other ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont. The senior Hardrick was runner-up at SWOWCA and the Brooke Classic, while taking fifth at Brecksville and third at Top Gun. Fellow senior Coffield was runner-up at GMVWA, while the sophomore Stein missed state qualification last year by one match at 160 pounds.

Closing out the weight class are a quartet of ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby, two of whom placed at state last year. The senior Foor seeks a fourth qualification to the state tournament, finishing sixth last year in this weight class; while his senior season includes runner-up finishes at North Canton and Western Brown sandwiched by a title at Dublin Scioto. Fellow senior May placed seventh at 182 last year, while his season has yielded titles at three tournaments (including GMVWA) and fifth place at the Top Gun. Soghomanyan was a second Upper Arlington wrestler that earned a state alternate position, but got to participate anyway at the state tournament; his senior season includes runner-up finishes at Upper Arlington and Fairfield along with sixth place at Medina. Fellow senior Bluntschy was a state alternate in this weight class last year, and has spent the vast majority of the season up at 195 where he won a pair of tournaments and placed eighth at Medina.

182 pounds

1. Jake Evans, Elyria, junior (Perrysburg)
2. Gavin Bell, Beavercreek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Sal Perrine, Nordon, junior (Mentor)
4. Dom Loparo, Wadsworth, senior (Mentor)
5. Deron Pulliam, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
6. Dillon Walker, Cincinnati LaSalle, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Toby Amburgy, Mason, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
8. Michael Garcar, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
9. Cody Wilson, Licking Hts., senior (Hilliard Darby)
10. Mason Sutandar, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
11. Alec Hall, Tecumseh, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Nick Copley, Dublin Coffman, senior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Josiah George, Pickerington North, senior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Dylan Davis, Green, senior (Mentor)
15. Tyler Grogg, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Marvelous Rutledge, Stebbins, junior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD – Pulliam, Wilson, Sutandar, Copley; George

KF – Bell, Walker, Amburgy, Hall; Grogg, Rutledge

MEN – Perrine, Loparo, Davis, William Speight (Bedford, senior); Jacob Smail (Austintown Fitch, junior)

PBG – Evans, Garcar, Ryan Musgrove (Perrysburg, junior), Jimmy Paletta (Berea-Midpark, junior);

Shamique Bryant (Lakewood, senior)

The presence of returning state champion Shumate one weight above, and the current triumvirate of Snodgrass, Lockett, and Lagoa one weight below yields this rather open weight class. While there could be a late shift of someone from either below or above to change the calculus, most signs point to the composition not changing materially.

As it presently stands, the highest returning state placer is Evans, who placed fourth at 170 pounds last year as a sophomore. His state tournament losses came 8-6 to Lockett in the semi and 3-1 to Snodgrass for bronze. Headed into this season, Evans placed at the Cadet World Team trials in freestyle and the Super 32 Challenge, while missing All-American honors in Junior freestyle by one match. In the current season, he was runner-up at Ironman, including a semifinal win over returning state champ D'Alesio in the tiebreaker; placed third at the Beast of the East, outplacing the opponent he lost to in the quarterfinal; and then won titles at Brecksville and Maumee Bay.

High-end congestion is not the word of the day at Perrysburg, where there is just one other ranked wrestler in the junior Garcar, who has won a consolation match each of the previous two years at state competing in the 170-pound weight class. This season, he missed the Ironman due to injury, and missed placement at the Doc Buchanan by one match with both his losses coming to wrestlers from Illinois.

The primary challenge to Evans will come from three-time state qualifier Bell, who placed fifth at state last year down at 152 pounds. Subsequently, the Naval Academy appointee was seventh in the NHSCA Junior Nationals at 152 and then finished fifth at the Super 32 Challenge including a medal match win over Evans. This season Bell has titles at both SWOWCA and Medina. Five additional ranked wrestlers are in the field at Kettering Fairmont, two with state tournament experience.

Walker qualified for state in 2018 at Legacy Christian before transferring to LaSalle, where he was ruled ineligible for the second half of last season due to OHSAA bylaw. He has competed at both 170 and 182 this season; down at 170 he was 2-2 at the Ironman and runner-up at the DCC Invitational, while in this weight class, he was champion at the Dvorak and fourth at Escape the Rock. Amburgy won a state tournament bout last year in this weight class as a sophomore, and has competed both here and at 95 this season. Up at 195, he was runner-up at SWOWCA and champion at Mason; while in this weight class he went 3-2 at Ironman and finished seventh at Powerade.

The senior Hall has titles at four tournaments, including at Kettering Fairmont and Benjamin Logan, along with a fifth-place finish at GMVWA. Fellow senior Grogg placed at district last year in the 152-pound weight class; he was champion at Western Brown this season after placing third at SWOWCA and fourth at Medina. Finally, Rutledge was state alternate last year as a junior, and this season was runner-up at Kettering Fairmont before winning titles at Miamisburg and Sycamore.

Three returning state tournament participants are among five ranked wrestlers at Hilliard Darby. Said group is led by two-time state placer Pulliam, who was runner-up at North Canton and fourth at Brecksville in this weight before making a brief foray up to 195 where he was champion at Dublin Scioto. Wilson went two-and-out in this weight class last year as a junior, and this season has competed both up at 195 and down here; up at 195, he was champion at both Mount Vernon and Marion Harding, while in this weight he was champion at Dublin Scioto and Licking Heights. Fellow senior Sutandar was third at Olentangy Liberty, second at Top Gun, while winning titles at both GMVWA and Delaware Hayes.

Fellow senior Copley placed last year at the district tournament, while this season he was 2-2 at the Ironman before finishing fifth at North Canton, seventh at Brecksville, and second at Delaware Hayes. Finally, another senior in George has been both here and at 195; up at 195 he was runner-up at Mount Vernon and fourth at Olentangy, while in this weight he was runner-up at Dublin Scioto and Watkins Memorial.

Closing the loop is a trio of ranked wrestlers at Mentor, two of whom are returning state placers. The senior Loparo placed fifth at 160 last season, and has been both here and at 195 this season; up at 195, he was second at North Canton and fourth at Powerade, while in this weight class he lost to Perrine in overtime of the Suburban League final and was champion Wadsworth. Perrine placed seventh at 160 last season as a sophomore, and this season has four tournament titles without a known loss (includes titles at Suburban League and Top Gun). The senior Davis placed at district last year, and this season was champion at Solon before taking second at Edgewood, fourth at North Canton, and fifth at the Bill Dies.

195 pounds

1. Seth Shumate, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
2. Ben Vanadia, Brecksville, junior (Mentor)
3. Jordan Greer, Avon, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Jacob Kowalski, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Jonathan List, Wadsworth, junior (Mentor)
6. Tyler Cobb, Oregon Clay, sophomore (Perrysburg)
7. Eddie Sevastos, Brunswick, senior (Perrysburg)
8. Caleb Tackett, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
9. Phillip Tracey, Northmont, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Ben Doehr, Elyria, senior (Perrysburg)
11. Dylan Russo, Olentangy Liberty, freshman (Hilliard Darby)
12. Clay Ours, Delaware Hayes, junior (Hilliard Darby)
13. Seth Dicola, Mentor, senior (Mentor)
14. Logan Shepherd, Massillon Perry, sophomore (Mentor)
15. Freddie Lisy, Euclid, senior (Mentor)
16. Ben DeGuzman, North Canton Hoover, junior (Mentor)

HD – Shumate, Russo, Ours, Liam Wilson (Teays Valley, junior); Tristan Bluntschy (Olentangy Orange, senior)

KF – Kowalski, Tackett, Tracey, Johan Martinez (St. Xavier, senior); Tyler Hicks (Beavercreek, freshman)

MEN – Vanadia, List, Dicola, Shepherd; Lisy, DeGuzman

PBG – Greer, Cobb, Sevastos, Doehr; Zach Porch (Berea-Midpark, junior)

Back in 2007-2008, Chris Phillips entered his high school career at Monroeville along with Hunter Stieber and Cam Tessari. All four would go on to win four state titles, as did Logan Steiber, who was one year older than that trio. Phillips was the upper-weight out of that group, and entered high school already a mega-star. As a freshman at 171 pounds, he went 51-0 including titles at both Ironman and Brecksville; at that point, his state title was the highest in weight that a freshman had won.

Last year that was eclipsed when Shumate won state in the 195-pound weight class with a 50-1 record. His lone in-season loss came in the 182-pound semifinal at North Canton, a pin at the 3:30 mark by Anthony Carman from West Virginia, who did not end the season as a nationally ranked wrestler. Outside of a poor Super 32 Challenge this fall and an injury-marred Junior Duals, the performances of Shumate indicate an extremely high ceiling wrestler with star potential.

From a resume standpoint, Shumate was runner-up at the Cadet World Team trials last June and champion in both styles at the 16U Nationals last summer in Fargo. This season he was champion at the Walsh Ironman, North Canton, Brecksville, and Delaware Hayes tournaments. Of note for the state

tournament was his 10-4 win over Vanadia in the final at Brecksville, a match basically over by the end of the first period.

Vanadia returns as a state runner-up from last year at 182 as a sophomore, and his junior season has been most excellent in placing fifth at Ironman, third at the Beast, and second at Brecksville before winning the Suburban League. Five additional ranked wrestlers feature at the Mentor district, including returning state placer List and state qualifier Dicola.

Two-time state qualifier List finished eighth at state last year as a sophomore. He missed the Ironman but returned to the 182-pound weight class where he was a semifinalist at North Canton and missed placement by one match at Powerade, where he sustained another injury but has since returned and will compete here at 195. The senior Dicola was fifth at Medina down at 182 before bumping to this weight class to place seventh at Maumee Bay and win the Hephner.

Shepherd was a state alternate last year at 170 as a freshman, while this season he went 2-2 at the Ironman, missed placement by one match at both the Beast and Brecksville, and was seventh at the Top Gun. The senior Lisy was also a state alternate last year, and has titles in three tournaments to go with a runner-up at Elyria in the current season; while DeGuzman was a state alternate last year in this weight as a sophomore and this season has a title at Coshocton to go with a runner-up at Wadsworth along with placements at North Canton and Top Gun.

It's a pair of ranked wrestlers joining Shumate at Hilliard Darby, the freshman Russo and the junior Ours. Russo was champion at Olentangy Liberty, fifth at Medina and Wadsworth, as well as second at the Bill Dies; while Ours was third at Olentangy Liberty and GMVWA, fourth at Top Gun, and runner-up at Delaware Hayes.

The last of four returning state placers in this weight class is Greer, who took fourth last year in this weight class as a junior. This season, he was seventh at Ironman and champion at the Bill Dies. Three additional ranked wrestlers join him at Perrysburg, led by Cobb, who won a state tournament match in this weight class last year as a freshman. His sophomore season includes a title at Solon before taking eighth at Brecksville, second at Dublin Scioto, and fifth at Maumee Bay. The senior Sevastos was state alternate last year up at 220, and this season was runner-up at Solon, fifth at the North Coast, champ at Medina, and then third at both Bill Dies and Wadsworth. Fellow senior Doehr placed at district in this weight last year, and this season was 3-2 at both the Ironman and Beast before medaling at Brecksville (third) and Maumee Bay then winning his conference tournament.

Rounding out the weight class is three ranked wrestlers at Kettering Fairmont, led by returning state qualifier Kowalski who has titles at the GMVWA, Maumee Bay, and Watkins Memorial on the season. Fellow senior Tackett was a state alternate last year, and this season was third at SWOWCA and Medina before taking second at Western Brown; while the junior Tracey was third at North Coast Classic and Western Brown sandwiched around titles at Xenia and Troy.

220 pounds

1. Ethan Hatcher, Brecksville, senior (Mentor)
2. Lazar Gasic, North Royalton, senior (Perrysburg)
3. Jacob Meek, Oregon Clay, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Justin Jaeckin, Olmsted Falls, senior (Perrysburg)
5. Kaden Tong, Olentangy Liberty, senior (Hilliard Darby)

6. Nick Lisco, St. Edward, senior (Perrysburg)
7. Jay Thompson, Worthington Kilbourne, senior (Hilliard Darby)
8. Nathan Robinson, Delaware Hayes, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Jake Noon, Findlay, senior (Perrysburg)
10. Ryan Prusinowski, North Canton Hoover, junior (Mentor)
11. Brandon Smith, Fairfield, junior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Riley Ucker, Dublin Coffman, sophomore (Hilliard Darby)
13. Chrisean Merritt, Maple Hts., senior (Mentor)
14. Jake Nelson, Groveport-Madison, junior (Hilliard Darby)
15. Ace Ehrenschwender, Colerain, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Colton Quantz, Lebanon, senior (Kettering Fairmont)

HD - Tong, Thompson, Robinson, Ucker; Nelson

KF – Smith, Ehrenschwender, Quantz, Wade Humphrey (Springboro, senior); Laveall Trimble (St. Xavier, sophomore)

MEN – Hatcher, Prusinowski, Merritt, Laron Parks (Euclid, senior); Carlos Elias (Massillon Jackson, senior)

PBG – Gasic, Meek, Jaeckin, Lisco; Noon

Friday night at last year's state tournament was not exactly a night to remember for Brecksville, as the Bees went 1-5 in state semifinals with only Vanadia emerging victorious. The last of the five semifinal losses came from Hatcher, who scored the first takedown but ended up losing an 8-7 instant classic to eventual state champion Shumate. The Cornell-bound Hatcher responded with a pair of decision wins to place third. Between that and a football season where he was the featured running back for a team that made the playoffs one year after going winless; Hatcher was champion at the NHSCA Junior Nationals, third at the Cadet World Team trials, undefeated at the Junior Duals, and third in Junior freestyle.

He was runner-up at the Walsh Ironman and Beast of the East, with both losses coming to wrestlers ranked first and third nationally. Subsequently, he has won titles at Brecksville, the Suburban League, and Bill Dies. Hatcher has a major decision (Ironman quarterfinal) and pin (Suburban League final) over Gasic and a pin over Meek, the two wrestlers ranked right below him at the weight class in this division.

Gasic and Meek both won state tournament bouts last year as juniors, Gasic in this weight class and Meek down at 170. The pair are joined by three other ranked wrestlers in district competition at Perrysburg. Gasic was runner-up to Meek at Solon but since placed seventh at the Ironman before winning titles at Hudson and the Hephner; while subsequent results for Meek include placing fifth at Brecksville, first at Dublin Scioto, and third at Maumee Bay. Against common opponent Fausnaugh, returning runner-up in Division II, Gasic beat him at Ironman while Meek lost by fall in a dual meet.

Jaeckin qualified for state last year as a junior, and this season was runner-up at Olentangy liberty, champion at Medina, and third at the Bill Dies. Fellow senior Lisco missed placing at the Ironman by one match, was eighth at the Doc Buchanan, and has quality wins in dual meets over Michigan state placer Colley along with Neves (the projected Division II champ). The other ranked wrestler is Noon, who was a state alternate last year in this weight; this season missed placing at the Ironman by one match before taking second at Findlay, eighth at Maumee Bay, and third at Wadsworth. Also here is returning state qualifier Sam Sawaya (Perrysburg, senior), whose go-to-state win over Noon was arguably the biggest upset of that round state wide last year.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the Hilliard Darby district, led by the senior Tong, who was a state alternate in this weight last year. He was champion at Olentangy Liberty and leading in his consolation final at Medina before sustaining an injury that knocked him out of competition for most of six weeks. Returning state qualifier Thompson has three tournament titles this season, including one at Top Gun, along with runner-up finishes at GMVWA and Dublin Scioto plus a fifth-place finish at Olentangy Liberty. Fellow senior Robinson placed fourth at Olentangy Liberty, GMVWA, and Top Gun before winning at Delaware Hayes.

Ucker qualified for state last year as a freshman and is a two-time 16U National freestyle All-American. This season he placed eighth at Ironman, third at North Canton, and second at Delaware Hayes; he also missed placement at Brecksville by one match, and was pinned by the unranked Joe Huber (Dublin Jerome, senior) at the regional duals. Lastly at a congested Darby district, it's Nelson who placed at district last year as a sophomore, and has titles in four tournaments on the season.

Joining Hatcher at Mentor are just two other ranked wrestlers, both of whom made the state tournament last year. The junior Prusinowski won a consolation bout at 182, and missed the first month-plus of the season before placing third at Top Gun and fourth at Wadsworth; while Merritt went two-and-out as a junior at 195, and was runner-up at Hudson to Gasic. It should be noted that returning state qualifier Blake Chrisman (Medina, senior) is out for the season due to an injury sustained at Maumee Bay.

Finally, there are three ranked wrestlers at the Kettering Fairmont district led by the junior Smith, who placed last year in this weight at district; this season includes titles at Kenston and Fairfield. The senior Ehrenschwender was state alternate last year up at 285, and he has three tournament titles on the season but lost 14-4 in the semifinal round at Fairfield to Smith on the way to finishing third. Closing the loop is fellow senior Quantz, who placed third at SWOWCA and Medina before earning the title at Western Brown.

285 pounds

1. Max Millin, Massillon Perry, senior (Mentor)
2. Jacob Padilla, Huber Hts. Wayne, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
3. Daniel Bucknavich, Midview, senior (Perrysburg)
4. Omari Green, Central Crossing, senior (Hilliard Darby)
5. Yousef Awad, Lakewood, senior (Perrysburg)
6. Seth Frantz, Northmont, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
7. Marco Tramantano, Mayfield, senior (Mentor)
8. Donovan Hardin, Dublin Scioto, senior (Hilliard Darby)
9. Ethan Green, Fremont Ross, sophomore (Perrysburg)
10. Tripp Johnson, Springboro, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Ben Blevins, Cincinnati LaSalle, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Brenden Holiday, Wooster, senior (Mentor)
13. Ethan Hand, Olentangy, junior (Hilliard Darby)
14. Justin Knipper, Beaver creek, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
15. Rowan Tolbert, Elder, senior (Kettering Fairmont)
16. Mason Bingham, Avon, junior (Perrysburg)

HD – O. Green, Hardin, Hand, Max Lenz (Big Walnut, senior); Zach McMinn (Marysville, junior)

KF – Padilla, Frantz, Johnson, Blevins; Knipper, Tolbert

MEN – Millin, Tramantano, Holiday, Rager Els (Massillon, junior); Knowledge Smith/Tehjon Avery (Canton McKinley, senior)

PBG – Bucknavich, Awad, E. Green, Bingham; Ben Richmond (Oregon Clay, senior)

Finishing an undefeated 42-0 as a junior at heavyweight normally means that a repeat state title is the next thing on the horizon. At this point in time, that would involve flipping the script for Jacob Padilla, who is bound for Ohio University as a wrestler. Padilla's season started well enough with a 5-4 victory over fellow state champion Coleman in the SWOWCA final. Then in the semifinal at Brecksville, fellow senior Millin knocked off Padilla 6-4 in overtime. While Padilla would go on to finish third in that tournament, he lost to Millin just over two weeks later 2-1 in the Top Gun final, and lost 5-0 to Frazier from West Virginia in the Brooke Classic final thereafter.

It should be noted that Padilla did pick up two wins over Millin last season, Top Gun final and state semifinal. A hypothetical state finals meeting on Sunday, March 15th would be a career rubber match with the wrestlers entering 2-2 against one another.

After placing third at state last season, Millin has been one of the biggest emerging stories among Ohio wrestlers in the national landscape. He finished runner-up at both the Ironman and Beast of the East, though it should be noted that he reversed the overtime loss from the Ironman final with an overtime victory in the semifinal round at the Beast. Millin then followed the semifinal win over Padilla at Brecksville with a 5-4 victory in the final over Michigan state champ Kolcheff, who is also nationally ranked. He also was named Outstanding Wrestler at Delaware Hayes.

There's a third very high-end heavyweight in Bucknavich, who was fifth at state last year as a junior after losing 7-3 to Millin in the quarterfinal round. He placed first this season at Solon, Medina, the Bill Dies, and West Holmes. There are three additional ranked wrestlers at Perrysburg, led by returning state qualifier Awad who beat eventual state placer Omari Green 6-4 in the opening round at state. Ethan Green, only a sophomore, was third at Solon and seventh at Defiance before taking fourth at both Maumee Bay and Delaware Hayes; while Bingham placed at district last year down at 220 in his sophomore campaign, and finished eighth at Brecksville and third at the Bill Dies this season.

Padilla exits the deepest of the districts, as five additional ranked wrestlers are present at Kettering Fairmont. Said group is led by returning state qualifier Frantz, who has titles in four tournaments this season – including GMVWA – and was pinned by Padilla in the final at Troy. Fellow senior Johnson was a state alternate last year at 220, and this season was runner-up at GMVWA; Blevins placed at district two years ago as a sophomore but did not wrestle last year after transferring to LaSalle, while this season includes placing sixth at the DCC Invitational and fourth at Escape the Rock.

Fellow seniors Knipper and Tolbert round out the ranked group. Knipper was third at SWOWCA and sixth at Medina; while Tolbert was fourth at SWOWCA, fifth at Brecksville, runner-up at CIT, and sixth at Delaware Hayes.

It's just a pair of ranked wrestlers joining Millin at Mentor. Fellow senior Tramantano missed last season due to injury but is a physical specimen at every bit of the weight class. He anchored the interior lines for a team that was undefeated in the regular season, and took Hoban to the brink in the playoffs, while also qualifying last year for state in the shot put. This season he was champion at Hudson and the Hephner, along with placing third at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Holiday was closed out of the lineup

last year by returning state qualifier Burns, who transferred to Hoban for his senior season; while he was first at Smithville this season.

Three ranked wrestlers led by returning state medalist Omari Green lead the contingent at Hilliard Darby. The senior Green has titles in three tournaments, including an overtime win over Hardin in the final at Olentangy Liberty; while he finished second at Marion Harding and Delaware Hayes. Fellow senior Hardin is a returning state qualifier, placing this this year at North Canton, Dublin Scioto, and Delaware Hayes in addition to the runner-up at Olentangy Liberty and seventh-place at Delaware Hayes. The junior Hand placed fifth at North Canton and Delaware Hayes, missed placing by one match at Medina, and was runner-up at Mason.

Team

1. St. Edward (Perrysburg)
2. Elyria (Perrysburg)
3. Brecksville (Mentor)
4. Cincinnati LaSalle (Kettering Fairmont)
5. Wadsworth (Mentor)
6. Perrysburg (Perrysburg)
7. Oregon Clay (Perrysburg)
8. Dublin Coffman (Hilliard Darby)
9. Mason (Kettering Fairmont)
10. Springboro (Kettering Fairmont)
11. Huber Hts. Wayne (Kettering Fairmont)
12. Dublin Scioto (Hilliard Darby)